

## Exclusion of the New York Fern and the Hay-scented Fern from the Flora of Iowa

T. S. COOPERRIDER

It is always tedious to remove errors from floristic literature when they involve a species' distribution range. The present case may prove particularly difficult because the errors are supported by herbarium specimens.

The problem concerns a group of fern specimens in the U. S. National Museum purportedly collected by B. Shimek in Iowa. Some of the specimens were called to my attention by C. V. Morton, who examined them while preparing a review (Morton, 1961) of my publication (Cooperrider, 1959) on the pteridophytes of Iowa. In that work I excluded the New York Fern, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*, reported by Tuttle (1920) from Mitchell County, Iowa. Miss Tuttle was not noted for accuracy of identification, and since no specimens had been found in Iowa herbaria, the action seemed justifiable. Morton, however, found a specimen at US, accurately determined and attributed to Iowa. Later, R. M. Tryon inquired about the absence of the Hay-scented Fern, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, from my Iowa publication. He had included Iowa in its distribution range (Tryon, 1960) on the basis of a specimen at US.

The specimens in question are these (listed in order of their US accession numbers): *Aspidium cristatum* Sw., Cummington Iowa, Aug. 16, 1921, B. Shimek 25 (US 1,871,909); *Phegopteris polypodioides* Fée, Cummington, Iowa, Aug. 19, 1921, B. Shimek 41 (US 1,871,910); *Aspidium noveboracense* Sw., Ravine, Tom Range, Iowa, July 22, 1921, B. Shimek 152 (US 1,871,911); *Dicksonia punctilobula* A. Gray, Range, Mount Tom, Iowa, Aug. 1, 1921, B. Shimek 157 (US 1,871,912); and *Aspidium marginale* Sw., Cliffs, Mount Tom, Iowa, Aug. 9, 1921, B. Shimek 225 (US 1,871,914).

It is my contention that the specimens were collected in Massachusetts by some person other than Shimek. All the labels have the heading "HERBARIUM of The UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,"



and presumably were distributed by that herbarium. All the specimens were accurately determined; the currently used names are, respectively: *Dryopteris cristata* (L.) Gray, *Thelypteris phegopteris* (L.) Slosson, *Thelypteris noveboracensis* (L.) Nieuwl., *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* (Michx.) Moore, and *Dryopteris marginalis* (L.) Gray. It should be noted that the two *Dryopteris* species

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

HERBARIUM of The UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

No. 157

*Dicksonia punctilobula*  
a. Gray

Locality Lange, Mt. Tom, Iowa

Date Aug 1, 1921 Coll. B. Shimek

1

Very sincerely,

*B. Shimek*

B. Shimek

*B. Shimek*

2

FIG. 1. PHOTOGRAPH OF SPECIMEN LABEL. FIG. 2. TWO AUTHENTIC SHIMEK SIGNATURES.

and *Thelypteris phegopteris* do occur in Iowa but are rare in that state (Cooperrider, *op. cit.*).

Mount Tom is a well known site a few miles north of Holyoke, Massachusetts; the town of Cummington is 25 miles distant. Recent visits to the area disclosed that the first two species listed above are common in Cummington and the last three are common at Mt. Tom. Specimens of each (respectively, Cooperrider and Brockett 10749, 10748, 10638, 10747, and 10637) are now at KE.



Bohumil Shimek was for many years curator of the herbarium at the University of Iowa, and collected widely in that state. Dr. Henry S. Conard, who prepared a biography of Shimek, writes in personal communication: "I did not find any record that he [Shimek] was ever in Massachusetts." Examination of Shimek's field notebooks and specimens at the University of Iowa revealed that he was collecting in Allamakee and Clayton Counties, Iowa, on August 5, 8-9, and 18-20, 1921. I have been unable to locate a Cummington or a Mount Tom in either of these counties, or elsewhere in Iowa. A comparison of the handwriting on the specimen labels (*Fig. 1*) with that of authentic Shimek signatures (*Fig. 2*) shows clearly that the labels were not prepared by him.

The origin and history of the specimens is speculative. They may well have been sent from Iowa to The University of Texas, where someone wrote the erroneous labels. In any event, they were not collected in Iowa by Shimek. *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* and *Thelypteris noveboracensis* must continue to be excluded from the known flora of Iowa, and Iowa excluded from the known range of these species.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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